POISON IVY™

19

WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF PAMELA ISLEY! PART 1 OF 3

13+ TEEN

DAWN OF DC

BAD, MAD, AND ANGRY AT DAD!

SINISTER SONS

DAWN OF DC

© & TM DC.

WALKER HENNESSY ANDERSON

WRITTEN BY
PETER J. TOMASI

ART BY
DAVID LAFUENTE

COVER BY BRAD WALKER

MEET THE DEADLIEST NEPO BABIES IN THE GALAXY STARTING IN
FEBRUARY

I've died before.

PAM?!

SHE'S BLEEDIN' OUT--

But not like this.

I know what it feels like to be pulled back into the Green, to fuse with life itself.

WHAT IS THAT THING?!

GAAAHH!

This is a much more BORING kind of DEATH. The kind you see on TV.

KEEP IT AWAY!!

I'M TRYIN'--

You know. FLOATING above your body. Rising into DARKNESS.

But I'm not AFRAID.

This DARKNESS is the ORDINARY STATE of the UNIVERSE.

There is more **nothing** than **something** out there in space.

Life as we know it is a **miracle.**

I never lost that **awe** of our planet. Our sheer **improbability.**

We shouldn't **exist.** Yet here we are.

IT'S ***LATE***, PAM. YOU'RE GOING TO STRAIN YOUR ***EYES*** STARING INTO THAT ***MICROSCOPE.***

I'M ALMOST ***DONE***, MOM. I'VE ***GOT*** TO KEEP A 4.0 FOR MY ***SCHOLARSHIP.***

I ***WORRY*** ABOUT YOU GOING SO ***FAR AWAY*** FOR COLLEGE.

THE ***ONLY*** SCHOOL THAT HAS THE KIND OF ***PLANT BIOCHEMISTRY*** PROGRAM I WANT IS IN ***SEATTLE.***

I ***KNOW***, IT'S JUST-- KEEP YOUR ***GUARD*** UP, OKAY? THERE ARE A LOT OF ***OLDER GUYS*** WHO'LL SEE AN EAGER ***YOUNG GIRL*** AS AN ***INVITATION.***

She was **right**, of course.

CELLULAR MITOSIS IS THE MOST ***VITAL PROCESS*** OF ***LIFE*** ON EARTH.

IN ***PLANTS*** AND IN ***ANIMALS***, THIS IS WHERE ***DNA***-- THE ***BLUEPRINT*** OF EVERY ORGANISM-- DOES ITS ***WORK***.

But I was young and **clueless**.

And **DR. JASON WOODRUE**...

FOR ***MOST*** OF HUMAN HISTORY, THE WAY DNA FUNCTIONS WAS A ***MYSTERY***.

WE COULDN'T ***SEE*** IT. WE COULDN'T ***MESS AROUND*** WITH IT.

EVEN ***NOW***, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE ***HARD LINES*** WE CAN'T CROSS WHEN IT COMES TO ***GENE MANIPULATION***.

...he seemed to have the **entire** cosmos **figured out**.

SO IF ***ANY*** OF YOU CAN ***CORRECTLY*** DETERMINE HOW ***I*** WAS ABLE TO CREATE VIABLE HUMAN ***SKIN CELLS*** USING THE DNA OF A BRITTLE-GILL ***MUSHROOM***...

...MEET ME DURING ***OFFICE HOURS*** TO EXPLAIN YOUR ***WORK***.

At least, I thought so.

THIS IS SO COOL.

STOP KISSING UP. YOU'RE NOT EVEN TECHNICALLY SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS PROGRAM.

YOU'RE STILL AN UNDER-GRADUATE.

That's Philip Sylvain, plant genomics expert and mostly-harmless weirdo.

I wonder what he's up to these days.

DR. WOODRUE THINKS I HAVE SPECIAL TALENTS, PHIL.

I bet he does.

BUT WE'RE HERE TO REEXAMINE THE DIVERGENCE OF PLANT LIFE FROM ANIMAL LIFE.

Not cultivate schoolgirl crushes on teacher.

Nerd.

Bimbo.

CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO.

Alec Holland. Most brilliant botanist I've ever met. Hides it well, though.

I GOTTA GO MEET LINDA IN TEN MINUTES.

CAN YOU HURRY UP AND CRACK THE CODE OF SPECIES DIFFERENTIATION BEFORE THEN? WE'VE GOT DINNER RESERVATIONS.

Linda Holland. Also a genius. Hides it even better than her husband.

YOU'RE TOO LATE, DR. HOLLAND.

I DISCOVERED THE SECRET ORIGINS OF LIFE WHEN I WAS PREPPING AGAR PLATES WHILE THE THREE OF YOU WERE ARGUING ABOUT GENE THERAPY.

SORRY, HON, WE'RE TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD OVER HERE-- PROCRASTINATION IS PART OF THE PROCESS--

CHANGE THE WORLD. LISTEN TO YOU.

JUST REMEMBER WHO DID THE REAL WORK WHILE YOU WERE PONTIFICATING.

PROCRASTINATING.

Whatever.

Hmph.

There they are.

COMING, ISLEY?

The golden children. The smartest botanists in the country.

REGRET is what happens when we learn lessons too late to apply them.

And I have learned a lot.

I-I'M NOT COMING TO DINNER.

I'M--uhh-- I'M GOING TO PREP FOR TOMORROW'S CLASS. JUST TO GET A HEAD START.

If anyone asks you to choose them over your friends, choose your friends.

WELL... IF YOU'RE SURE...

IS THAT CODE FOR GOING TO WOODRUE'S OFFICE HOURS?

ALONE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING HE SAYS, PAM.

But I didn't **listen.**

All I wanted to do was sit at the feet of the **GREAT MAN.**

SO. YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT FIGURED OUT?

DON'T GUESS. ***HYPOTHESIZE.***

I-I HAVE A ***GUESS.***

DID YOU ***DOUBLE*** THE NUMBER OF ***CHROMOSOMES*** IN THE BRITTLEGILL BY ***ALTERING*** THE ***MEIOTIC RECOMBINATION*** RATE?

WELL DONE. ***VERY*** WELL DONE.

I KNEW YOU'D TAKE THE TIME TO ***UNDERSTAND.*** YOU HAVE WHAT IT ***TAKES,*** ISLEY. THAT BRAIN OF YOURS IS ***SPECIAL.***

WE ARE GOING TO DO ***INCREDIBLE*** THINGS. PLANTS AND ANIMALS SHARE ALMOST ***HALF*** THEIR DNA. ***IMAGINE*** WHAT WE COULD DO IF WE OPENED OUR ***MINDS*** TO THE ***FULL*** SCOPE OF ***LIFE*** ON ***EARTH...***

PHILIP IS SMARTER. LINDA IS ***CLEVERER.***

YOU'RE MORE ***COMMITTED.*** YOU'RE MORE COMMITTED THAN ***ANY*** OF THEM.

THE MOST ***IMPORTANT*** QUALITY ANY SCIENTIST CAN HAVE IS NOT ***INTELLIGENCE,*** PAM. IT'S ***PERSEVERANCE.***

Annoyingly, this is ***true.***

PERSEVERANCE...

Evil people *tell the* ***truth*** *sometimes. In fact, evil people tell the truth* ***a lot.***

That's what makes ***evil*** *so* ***hard*** *to* ***root out.***

Evil people *make you believe that in order to accept their* ***truths,*** *you have to accept their* ***methods.***

I didn't realize back then that you have a ***choice.***

THIS IS ONLY THE ***BEGINNING.*** WHOLE ***FRONTIERS*** OF PLANT-ANIMAL ***HYBRIDIZATION*** ARE GOING TO ***OPEN UP.***

IT'S A SHAME THAT REGULATORS-- not to mention ***medical ethics*** boards-- ARE SO ***SQUEAMISH...***

I just wanted to learn. We all did.

GOOD MORNING, DEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS!

GREAT NEWS.

WE'VE GOT *FUNDING* FOR OUR NEXT ROUND OF *EXPERIMENTS.* THE FIRST-EVER *MOUSE-TRACHEOPHYTE HYBRID* IS RIGHT OVER THE HORIZON.

THUD

YES!

FANTASTIC NEWS.

LET'S GO!

NOW, THIS MEANS WE'VE GOT A *LOT* TO DO AND *NOT* A LOT OF TIME TO *DO* IT IN.

WE'VE GOT TO *IMPRESS* THE HIGHER-UPS SO THEY'LL GIVE US *ANOTHER* ROUND OF FUNDING AFTER THIS ONE, AND A *THIRD* ONE AFTER THAT--

--CHANGING MEDICAL SCIENCE AS WE KNOW IT TAKES A LOT OF *CAPITAL.*

I'VE CHOSEN *PAM* AND *LINDA* TO ASSIST ME IN THE *FIRST PHASE.*

JUST THEM?

THE *GIRLS?!*

NOW, *NOW.* LET'S NOT GET INTO THE WEEDS OF *PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY.*

IT'S *IMPORTANT* TO PROMOTE *WOMEN* IN THE *SCIENCES.*

THIS ISN'T JUST A *BOTANY* EXPERIMENT. IT'S A *SOCIAL* EXPERIMENT.

WE'RE HERE TO *BREAK BOUNDARIES,* REMEMBER? SO LET IT NEVER BE SAID THAT I WASN'T WILLING TO GIVE MY FEMALE STUDENTS *OPPORTUNITIES* FOR *ADVANCEMENT.*

I *LOVE* WOMEN.

Sounds great, right?

Real mentoring. Real opportunities.

Except that's not actually what it was.

STILL NOT FINISHED?!

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DONE TWO HOURS AGO!

THE PREP WORK FOR EACH ONE OF THESE TOOK LONGER THAN WE TH--

I DON'T WANT EXCUSES!

I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

I'VE TRIED TO HELP WOMEN LIKE YOU.

BUT ALL YOU'RE DOING IS PROVING TO THE WORLD YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

THERE.

WAS THAT SO HARD?

PLINK

Oh, YOU'RE ABOUT TO *CRY* NOW?

I--

WELL, YOU CAN SAVE THE ACT. I'M NOT FALLING FOR IT!

THE *REST* BETTER BE *DONE* BEFORE CLASS *TOMORROW!*

WHY DIDN'T YOU *SAY* ANYTHING?

I'M *SORRY*, I JUST-- I DIDN'T WANT TO *UPSET* HIM--

YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK I'M *DONE* FOR THE NIGHT.

I'LL FINISH THE REST OF THE

YEAH. *THANKS.*

This is what an **evil genius** *does.*

Isolates *you. Pits you against your* **colleagues** *and your* **friends.**

So why did we keep going?

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!

I'VE GOT A *SURPRISE* FOR YOU TODAY.

Because we were making **magic.**

BEHOLD! BRASSICA AUDIENTIA.

IT REACTS NOT *ONLY* TO CHANGES IN *LIGHT* AND *TEMPERATURE,* BUT TO THE SOUND OF *HUMAN VOICES.*

IT'S *LISTENING.*

Real magic. Some unexplored **borderland** between **science** and the **unseen.**

And you don't **walk out** in the middle of a **magic show.**

DR. WOODRUE!

DR. WOODRUE!

IT'S *REAL*, ISN'T IT? WE'RE *DOING* IT. WE'RE *BRIDGING* THE *GAP* BETWEEN *PLANT* LIFE AND *ANIMAL* LIFE.

I DON'T WANT TO SPEAK TOO SOON, BUT... I THINK WE *ARE* ON THE VERGE OF A *BREAK-THROUGH.*

PROLONGED *LIFE SPANS*, A CURE FOR *CANCER*... IT'S ALL WITHIN *REACH*...

YOU *GET* IT. YOU UNDERSTAND THE *SCOPE* OF WHAT'S *POSSIBLE* HERE.

LISTEN-- ARE YOU *DOING* ANYTHING RIGHT NOW?

NO--

COME BY MY OFFICE. THERE'S MORE I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

I'd **love** to say, this isn't what it looks like.

But in fact, it was **exactly** what it looked like.

At the time, I thought it was **exciting**. I didn't think we were doing anything **wrong**.

After all, I was an **adult**. There was nothing **illegal** about it.

But even **then**, at the very **beginning**, I could **tell** that he was **still** the one **in charge**.

WAIT--

After that, things began to get WEIRD.

...JASON? Hello?

THERE YOU ARE.

QUICK-- FOLLOW ME, BEFORE ANYONE SEES US.

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT THE DOCKS? THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND SEAGULLS.

CREEAK

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

...Oh, WOW.

I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

It was like something out of a **movie.**

No. **More** than that.

Something out of a **dream.**

IS THIS... IS THIS LITERALLY A SECRET LABORATORY?

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT. THE *SANCTUM SANCTORUM.*

THIS IS WHERE THE *REAL* BREAKTHROUGHS ARE HAPPENING.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS SETUP FOR *MONTHS.* DIVERTING SOME OF THE *GRANT MONEY.* IT'S GOT *EVERYTHING* WE NEED.

AND THE *OTHERS* DON'T *KNOW* ABOUT THIS PLACE?

THE *OTHERS* AREN'T READY TO *SEE* IT.

BUT *YOU* ARE.

MY *PERFECT* LITTLE *FLOWER.*

I thought I was in **love** with him.

Silly to think about now.

But some **poisons** are so **intoxicating** you don't even notice they're **KILLING** you.

WE'RE GONNA *REWRITE* THE *HISTORY* OF LIFE ON EARTH.

They become **part** of who you **are.**

And by that point, I was **hooked.**

TELL ME HOW TO *HELP.*

I threw myself into the **work.**

I **stopped** going to **class.**

There was too much to do at the **lab.**

Sometimes I didn't even go home to **sleep** for **days** at a time.

Every day felt like one step **closer** to something **revolutionary.**

PAM. WAKE UP.

A way to **hybridize** plants and animals in order to utilize the **best** qualities of both.

There was just **ONE** problem.

I WANT TO **ASK** YOU SOMETHING.

THE UNIVERSITY *REFUSED* TO GIVE US ANOTHER ROUND OF FUNDING.

WHAT?! *WHY?!*

DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND HOW *IMPORTANT* YOUR *WORK* IS?

NO, PAM, THEY *DON'T.* THEY'RE *SCARED*-- STUCK IN THE *PAST.* USELESS.

WE'LL NEED TO USE *OTHER* METHODS TO GET THE *SUPPLIES* WE NEED.

...What *methods?*

YOU HAVE TO THINK OUTSIDE THE *BOX,* PAMELA. OUTSIDE THE *RULE BOOK.* IF YOU'RE *SERIOUS* ABOUT YOUR *FUTURE* IN THIS FIELD, YOU'LL DO *WHATEVER* IT *TAKES.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *ME?* WHAT AM *I* SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT? I'M JUST A *STUDENT*--

I'M *SURE* YOU'LL THINK OF *SOMETHING.* YOU'RE SO *CLEVER.*

YOU *HAVE* TO HELP ME, PAM. YOU'RE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO *CAN.*

THE UNIVERSITY.
TWO NIGHTS LATER.

I thought about saying **no.** Telling **Woodrue** to deal with it **himself.**

I'd never done anything seriously **wrong** before.

I was a **straight-A** student.

I'd never even gotten a **speeding ticket.**

But I was already in **too deep** to back out.

In a sense, **this** is when **Poison Ivy** was born.

Not **later,** when I got my **powers.** Not after I met **Batman.**

Now, the **first time** I decided that **laws** don't **apply** to me.

I had **no idea** how to **rob** a **biology lab.**

Turns out, it was **easier** than I **thought.**

CREEAK

Once I got over the initial **shock,** the whole thing came very **naturally.**

After all, I told myself I was doing all this for a **good cause.**

We were going to **help** people. They were just too **ignorant** to **see** it.

HELLO? ANYBODY IN THERE?

Nngh!

But it wasn't **just** that. Now that I'm **dying**, I can finally **admit** it to myself.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER NINETEEN.

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HEY! STOP! DROP THE BACKPACK, NOW!

Breaking the law? Living by my **own rules?**

It woke **something** up inside of me.

Something beautiful.

Something **DANGEROUS.**

NEXT: ORIGIN OF SPECIES PART TWO!

Variant covers
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WITH DAVE McCAIG
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1:25 Variant cover
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WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

DAWN OF DC

RED HOOD THE HILL

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COVERS BY
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6 ISSUES
GOTHAM'S FAVORITE ANTIHERO COMES HOME IN FEBRUARY

IT ALL STARTS IN THE *RED HOOD: THE HILL* #0 PRELUDE ONE-SHOT!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DAWN OF DC

SINISTER SONS

Super Sons by writer Peter J. Tomasi and artist Jorge Jiménez—starring Jon Kent and Damian Wayne—stands as one of the most beloved superhero series in the past decade, infusing new energy into the iconic worlds of Batman and Superman.

Several years later, Tomasi is back at DC to work his magic on another pair of notable offspring—and they're not nearly as heroic. Tomasi and fan-favorite artist David Lafuente have joined forces for *Sinister Sons*, starring Lor-Zod (the son of General Zod) and Sinson (the son of Sinestro, as his name implies).

Lor-Zod is cast off from his adopted home-world of New Kandor and runs afoul of Sinson, who is looking to live up to his family name—and together the devious new duo embark on a journey that will most definitely mean bad news for the heroes of the DC Universe.

To further ramp up your *Sinister Sons* anticipation, enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at Lafuente's character sketches for the deadliest nepo babies in the galaxy, plus interior panels from Sinson's introduction in *Green Lantern*.

DON'T MISS *SINISTER SONS* #1, ON SALE IN FEBRUARY!

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